Magazine Debut

2F 3C

高星麻子

A NEW PART-TIME WORKER TRANSFERS TO THE CHILDREN'S BOOK SECTION WHERE RITSU IZAKI WORKS. HE SEEMS TO BE ATTACHED TO REIJI, BUT HE ALWAYS SLACKS OFF AT WORK...!?

Lyrical, Sweet Love

Part A

33page

幾何学絵本

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GEOMETRIC PICTURE BOOK

ASAKO TAKABOSHI PRESENTS

2F BOOK
AH, THERE YOU ARE! IZAK!!
IZAK!—?
DVD
BOOK
I THINK I REALLY WILL MOVE SOMEONE FROM CD'S OVER.
HELP HIM LEARN THE ROPES, WILL YOU?
ABOUT THE WORKER WE NEEDED FOR THE DISPLAY.
HUH? IS HE A PART-TIMER?
YEAH. WELL, WITH YOU AS HIS SUPERVISOR, HE SHOULD DO FINE.
Ummm
WHO IS IT THAT'S COMING?

AND HERE I AM HAPPY THAT I CAN WORK WITH YOU.
IT'S JUST YOU.
OH, KAZUSHI.
STOP ACTING LIKE A LITTLE KID...
WHY NOT?
DOESN'T MY ADMIRATION GO TO SHOW THAT YOU'RE A GOOD MENTOR?
RITSU-SAN, WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S JUST ME?
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT...
I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT DEALING WITH SOMEONE NEW IF KAZUSHI'S TRANSFER RING HERE
IF YOU REALLY THINK THAT,
THEN YOU'D BE POLITER WHEN YOU SPEAK TO ME
AND THAT IT'LL BE EASIER FOR ME.

WHY AM I BEING PLACED IN THE CHILDREN'S BOOK SECTION OF ALL PLACES?
RITSU-SAN...
YEAH, BUT JUST THINK ABOUT IT. IT'S KIND OF HARD FOR A COLLEGE STUDENT, LET ALONE A GUY, TO BE IN THIS CORNER...
WELL ISN'T SHIGA-KUN POPULAR WITH ALL THE YOUNG MOTHERS?
QUOTE-UNQUOTE
WHAT ARE YOU COMPLAINING ABOUT? THE STORE MANAGER HAD A LOT OF THINGS TO CONSIDER...
BEFORE HE DECIDED TO TRANSFER YOU HERE.
...WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
Hm hm hm
KAZUSHI,
THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE WAS SAYING ABOUT YOU.

DO YOU THINK THAT...
IT'LL LOOK BAD FOR YOUR IMAGE?
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR IT, THAT'S FOR CERTAIN
Mmm
I DON'T THINK IT'S SO BAD HERE
THERE ARE SOME INTERESTING BOOKS EVEN FOR ADULTS
!?
THUD
——...
SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO WORK HERE ANYWAY,
WOULDN'T IT BE A WASTE NOT TO TRY TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN IT?
Huh?
HARUTO !?
WHAT'S WR-...

end of the world.
it's the...
HUH?
.....
..ERR, WELL.. I WAS LOOKING AFTER HIM WHILE HIS MOM WENT SHOPPING..
I KNOW HE'S A REGULAR AT THE STORE AND ALL, BUT WHY IS HE SO ATTACHED TO YOU?
RITSU-SAN..
Hey!
I was just taking a break there! I wasn't making any trouble!!
ARE YOU SERIOUS? HE WAS SQUATTING OVER BY CD'S TOO
Yeah, we are
SO YOU'RE MOVING?
ANYWAY, ARE YOU TWO LISTENING TO ME!?
...BUT ONLY TO H-TOWN.

IT'S WHAT, FIVE MINUTES ON THE TRAIN?
THAT'S LIKE ONE STATION AWAY...
I've never ridden the train by myself!!
I WON'T GET TO...
BUT STILL!
PLAY WITH EVERYONE ANYMORE...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME HERE ANYMORE!
waiiii
—WELL, IT'S TRUE...
pat
THAT TO HARUTO, THIS MAY BE A BIG CRISIS...
DON'T CRY...
Ah
COME ON...
RITSU-NII...

CD
DVD
BOOK
So...
...
WHY IN THE WORLD IS HE SLEEPING?
KAZUSHI, WAKE UP!
BREAK'S OVER
SLEEP OR EAT PICK FIRST AND THEN STICK WITH IT
slide
Mmm
WELL, I WAS EATING, BUT THEN I ENDED UP PASSING OUT
SO HAVE YOU TAKEN AN INTEREST IN YOUR JOB YET?
Not a bit.

I WASN'T ABLE TO FINISH MY REPORT YESTERDAY, SO...
Ah
NO...
SO YOU SLEPT INSTEAD?
WELL, SINCE YOU SEEM TO BE GOING SERIOUSLY AT YOUR STUDIES...
JUST HURRY UP AND FINISH EATING
I'LL HELP YOU OUT TOO
AFTER YOU'RE DONE, YOU'RE SETTING UP THE DISPLAYS THAT YOU HATE SO MUCH
...
——...
HEH...
IT'D...
BE A WASTE TO SKIP OUT THEN

HUH?
The youngest in your family?
OR SOME-THING?
A DOG
IT'S LIKE
ARE YOU...
Ha ha ha
IT'S KINDA CUTE
IS THAT HOW YOU SEE ME, RITSU-SAN?
YOU GET ALL CLINGY, TAKE NAPS DURING THE DAY, AND GET ALL EXCITED WHEN WE DO WORK TOGETHER,
BUT YOU ALSO GET POUTY WHEN THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY.
PPPP
PPP
P
AH... I THINK IT'S MINE.
YOU GOTTA TURN INTO A HUMAN...
...BUT SOME TIME

SORRY, RITSU-SAN.
I'LL BE OUT SOON.
PPP
PPP
COME OUT WHEN YOU'RE DONE
WHAT TIME CAN YOU MEET?
YES
RIGHT
OK
ALRIGHT, I'LL SEE YOU THEN.
I KNOW THAT FOR A GUY LIKE KAZUSHI...
THAT HE WAS TALKING TO A WOMAN
WELL..
IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS ANYWAY.
THAT HE'D BE THE TYPE TO HIT IT OFF WITH OLDER WOMEN
I TOLD YOU
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO KNOW, BUT I GET THE FEELING.
NOPE, NOT AT ALL
Setting out picture books and children's books is a complicated process. There are many different design aspects that set them apart, so you have to display them so that they're each conspicuous. Can't you tell the difference between the two?
HUH?
Really?
shuffle
shuffle
They may be similar, but they're very different. Books that the parents like go up at top. Books that the children want go on the bottom. Also take note that 3-D type pop-up books break easily, and that although long-time sellers are popular

LOVED FOR MANY YEARS TO COME
ONCE SOLD, THEY ARE...
Modeling?
TECHNICAL DESIGN, YEAH.
CLOSE ENOUGH
HUH?
YOU'VE HEARD OF THIS BOOK, RIGHT?
THEY TALK ABOUT IT A LOT NOW ON TV.
Itch
WEREN'T YOU STUDYING 3-D MODELING IN SCHOOL?
OH
IT'S A 3-D POP-UP BOOK WHERE YOU CONSTRUCT A MODEL AS YOU GO ALONG WITH THE STORY
YEAH, KINDA...
Mmm
I'VE HEARD OF IT...
BEST OF ALL, IT'S REALLY REWARDING WHEN YOU FINISH BUILDING THE MODEL. IT'S REALLY PRETTY INTRICATE
IT'S FUN AND THERE'S A MORAL TO THE STORY

BUT IT'S KINDA DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I DO
HMMM...
Really?
HUH?
I LIKE THAT...
YOU KNOW...
.....?
WHAT?
NOTHING
I JUST THOUGHT THAT ..
YOU SEEMED LIKE A LITTLE KID
ABOUT YOU.

COULD YOU COME TAKE A LOOK HERE?
Huh?
UM, OK ..
HUH?
.....
WELL...
I WANTED TO ASK YOU...
YEAH?
tatter
tatter
UH, UMMM...
Thanks
I COULDN'T HOLD MYSELF TOGETHER...
WHAT? HUH?
IZAKI-SAN?
?
?
....
Why ?
Hey!
THERE YOU ARE!
IZAKI-SAN!

WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW...?
CLICK
STAFF ROOM
HE'S SURE BEEN NAPPING A LOT LATELY...
WELL, HE DID SAY HE WAS BUSY WITH SCHOOL...
...
sigh
BUT...
RITSU-SAN
I CAN'T FIND SOME OF THE BOOKS TO COMPLETE THE BOOK ORDERS
OH?

BOOK ORDERS ARE HANDLED HERE, SINCE THIS IS WHERE WE PUT THE OVERSTOCKED ITEMS
YOU LOOK MORE REFRESHED NOW THAN YOU DID EARLIER.
DID YOU LET ME SLEEP BECAUSE YOU NOTICED THAT?
FALLING ASLEEP WHILE EATING HAS BECOME A SPECIAL TALENT OF YOURS
WHA-

RITSU-SAN,
THANK YOU.
——…
HUH?
Ah
IT'S NOTHING
BUT IF YOU DIDN'T WAKE UP ON TIME, I WAS GONNA KICK YOU AWAKE!
OH YEAH, I-…
WAIT A MINUTE KAZUSHI WAS ONLY…
dash
AND INCI-DENTLY JUST DECIDED TO THANK ME
I THINK THE MANAGER'S CALLING FOR ME!
REACHING OVER TO GET A BOOK OFF OF THE SHELF

THEN...
WHAT...
Slam
AM I GETTING SHAKEN UP OVER?
sniff...
IZAKI-SAN?
?
?
WHERE'S RITSU-NII?
HEY...

HEEEY, KAZU-NII!!
RITSU-NII'S STILL NOT BACK YET?
Ritsu-nii!
Ritsu-nii!
AH!
So don't complain I'LL READ TO YOU INSTEAD.
YOU'LL READ THIS TO ME!?
...YOU'VE HEARD OF IT BEFORE?
I LOVE IT!
AND IT'S THE NEWEST BOOK!!
KAZU-NII, YOU WORK AT A BOOK-STORE
You don't know about it?
EVERYONE'S HEARD OF IT...
IT'S REALLY, REALLY COOL!

BUT I'VE NEVER BUILT ONE BY MYSELF BEFORE...
THE STORY IS ONLY ABOUT SHAPES LIKE CIRCLES AND TRIANGLES AND STUFF,
IT'S KINDA HARD...
YOU CAN TURN THE BOOK INTO LIKE A BOAT OR A CAR!
BUT IF YOU READ THE STORY AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS,
WHY NOT?
YUP! I GET MOMMY OR RITSU-NII TO HELP.
BUT NOT DADDY!!
YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO HELP YOU THEN?
WHEN I WAKE UP IN THE MORNING, IT'LL BE ALL FINISHED AND UP ON TOP OF THE TV!
'CAUSE HE'LL MAKE THE ENTIRE THING HIMSELF AND WON'T LEAVE ME ANYTHING TO DO!

Mom bought it for me!
IT'S SO ANNOYING!!
Wah!
SO COOL!!
HUH?
IT'S AN AIRPLANE!!
It's huge!
HARUTO?
AND

IT'S SO BIG!! THAT ROUND THINGIE WE STARTED OFF WITH
——...
LOOKED SO TINY WHEN WE WERE MAKING IT.
AAAH, AND NOW I CAN'T EVER MAKE THESE WITH RITSU-NII AGAIN NO FAIR...
YEAH, YOU CAN...
...GET BIGGER?
WHEN YOU GROW UP AND GET BIGGER, THINGS AREN'T AS BIG OR AS FAR AWAY AS THEY SEEM
JUST LIKE HOW THAT CIRCLE STARTED OFF LOOKING SMALL AT FIRST...
ooo

.....
BUT
IT'S STILL DIFFERENT FROM A BOOK!
Small at first
THUD
KAZU-NII, YOU'RE AN ADULT,
SO YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT KIDS GO THROUGH!
ERR, NO...
He's just there
THERE WAS A SAMPLE BOOK FOR DISPLAY
Only around
I SEE...
UM, RITSU-SAN
I'M REALLY NOT FEELING THE GREATEST RIGHT NOW...
SO YOU DO HAVE SOME GOOD POINTS

I THINK THAT...
BUT WHY ARE YOU GRINNING SO HAPPILY FOR?
WHO KNOWS?
HARUTO PROBABLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT KAZUSHI WAS TRYING TO TELL HIM...
THIS IS... THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN YOU LOOK LIKE THAT
SAME HERE. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN YOU LOOK SO HAPPY.
Hm hm hm
HUH? WELL...
I'M JUST HAPPY TO SEE SOMEONE GET SOMETHING OUT OF MY ADVICE YOU KNOW?
...YEAH
REALLY NOW...
I DID GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT

HNN...
IT'S TAKEN LONG ENOUGH.
FOR THAT SIDE OF KAZUSHI TO SURFACE
HE CALLED IN SICK?
YEAH WELL, SHIGA-KUN LIVES BY HIMSELF...
AND HE'S LOOKED PRETTY WORN OUT LATELY
HE CALLED IN YESTERDAY SOUNDING TERRIBLE, LIKE HE WAS DYING
SO I THINK HE'LL TAKE TODAY OFF TOO.
IZAKI-SAN, PLEASE GO AND SEE HOW HE'S DOING WHEN YOU GET OFF FROM WORK!
HE DOESN'T ANSWER HIS CELL OR HIS HOME PHONE EITHER
HUH...? WHY ME?

BECAUSE SHIGA-KUN'S REALLY ATTACHED TO YOU
YEAH, BUT...
...
AND IF IT'S NOTHING, I CAN JUST GO STRAIGHT HOME
You'll there's still what I'm doing
ding dong
WELL, I GUESS WE CAN'T HAVE HIM DYING ON US
S I L E N C E
P
——...
KAZUSHI?
?
BAM
NOT HOME?
HMM, IS HE...
thud
THUD
IT'S ME.
thud

SLUMP
ACKKK! HEY!!
HUH?
AH, YEAH?
huff
RITSU-SAN!?
HUH?
NOT ENOUGH SLEEP?
Yeah
AFTER A PARAGRAPH OR SO, I COULDN'T KEEP MY EYES OPEN..
SORRY, I HEARD THE PHONE RINGING, BUT...
HEY, RITSU-SAN—
YEAH, BUT AT THAT TIME I JUST WANTED TO SLEEP..
STILL, AT LEAST EAT SOMETHING FIRST.

...I'm supposed to eat this piece of apple how?
Is it even an apple?
SHUT UP! QUIT COMPLAINING AND JUST EAT IT!
It's not like the taste is any different
Stare
AND WHEN YOU'RE DONE,
I'M LEAVING.
HUH?
SO SOON?
I FEEL BETTER AFTER HAVING SEEN YOU, AND SINCE YOU NEED SLEEP, I'D JUST BE BOTHERING YOU.
YOU'RE NOT... BOTHERING ME.
REALLY? BUT SHOULDN'T YOU GET SOME SLEEP?
I WOULDN'T HAVE JUMPED OUT OF BED...
TO ANSWER THE DOOR IF I THOUGHT YOU'D BE BOTHERING ME

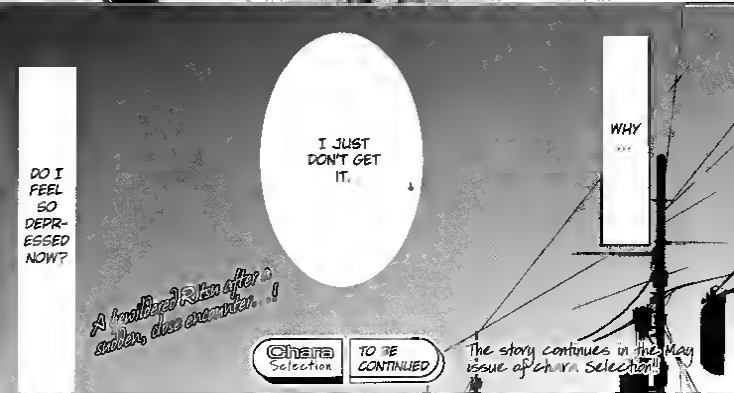
WH-
WHAT THE?
I'M FEELING FLUSHED FOR SOME REASON
Err
HMM?
DID YOU LEAVE YOUR COMPUTER ON BEFORE YOU FELL ASLEEP?
WANT ME TO TURN IT OFF FOR YOU?
!
HUH!?
WAIT...
RITSU-SAN,
DON'T...!

HA.
HAH!? WHAT?
DID YOU HAVE SOME PORN ON THERE OR SOMETHING?
RITSU-SAN...
DO YOU LIKE...
THAT SORT OF THING?
NO...
I WASN'T TALKING...
ABOUT ME...

—NH...
UM...
KAZU-...
...SHI?
ding dong
SHIGA-KUN?
turn

shove
A WOMAN'S VOICE...?
OH...
SHIT...
!!
dash
Bam
OH...
I SEE
!?

huff
WHAT WAS THAT "OH SHIT" FOR?
DON'T GO DOING ANYTHING STUPID THAT'LL GET YOU CAUGHT.
BUT ...
ALREADY HAD A GIRL THAT COULD TAKE CARE OF [illegible]
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
?
HE...


DO I FEEL SO DEPRESSED NOW?
I JUST DON'T GET IT.
WHY ...
A [redacted] Rikuo after a sudden, close encounter...!
Chara Selection
TO BE CONTINUED
The story continues in the May issue of Chara Selection!!

Just a gaze or a single word
from him is flustering enough—
But these feelings can't be unraveled
like reading a picture book...!
Lyrical Sweet Love
Part 1
32page
高星麻子
幾何学絵本
キガクカイホン
GEOMETRIC PICTURE BOOK
ASAKO TAKABOSHI PRESENTS

THE CHARACTERS
RITSU IZAKI - CHILDREN'S BOOKS SECTION SUPERVISOR. HE WENT TO VISIT KAZUSHI, WHO WAS HOME WITH A COLD, AND WAS NEARLY KISSED WHILE HE WAS THERE.
KAZUSHI SHIGA - COLLEGE STUDENT ON THE PART-TIME WORK STAFF. HE WAS TEMPORARILY FERRIED TO THE CHILDREN'S BOOKS SECTION, BUT FOR SOME REASON HE HAS NO MOTIVATION TO DO HIS JOB WHATSOEVER.
MARUTO - PINT-SIZED REGULAR CUSTOMER (?) OF THE STORE WHO'S ATTACHED TO RITSU AND LIKES BEING READ TO. WILL BE MOVING SOON
MONDAY
EXCUSE ME!
I'VE FINISHED ALL OF THIS
CD DVD BOOK
OH, THANKS.
LET'S SEE... NEXT YOU CAN HELP IZAKI-SAN WITH--
HUH?
IZAKI-SAN?
THAT'S STRANGE HE WAS HERE A MOMENT AGO...
.....
IT'S NOT LIKE...

I'M TRYING TO AVOID HIM.
IT'S BECOME...
IT'S JUST THAT EVER SINCE HE NEARLY KISSED ME WHEN I WAS AT HIS HOUSE...
KIND OF DIFFICULT TO FACE HIM...
RITSU-SAN
HERE.
I WAS TOLD TO BRING THIS TO YOU.

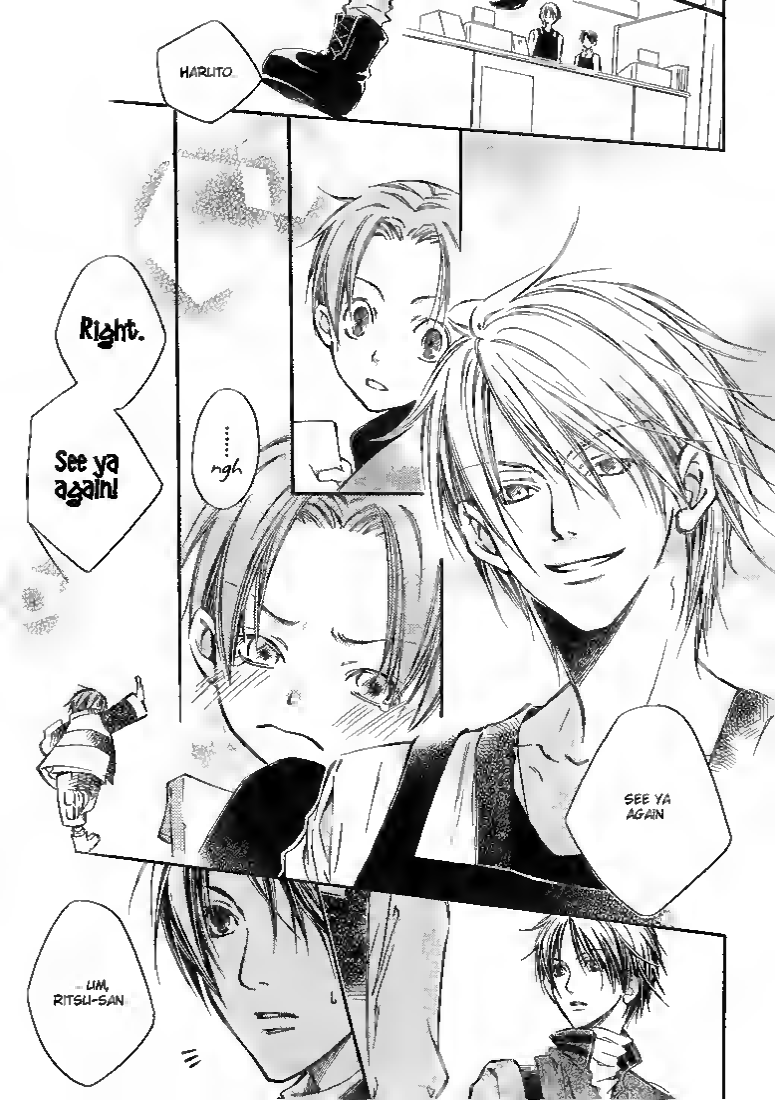
clatter
OH, REALLY?
THEN...
OOPS
ngh
SOR-
SORRY
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO UNEASY

ENOUGH. JUST FORGET ABOUT IT!
I SHOULD HAVE DONE SO FROM THE BEGIN-NING.
EVEN I KNOW BETTER
THAN TO DO THAT TO YOU HERE.
HOW...
CAN HE BE SO CALM?
JUST.

WHAT IS IT EXACTLY ...
HOW-EVER..
IT FEELS REALLY AWKWARD ...
WITH THINGS LIKE THIS...
Ding
this book please?
Can I have...
THAT'S BOTHER-ING ME SO MUCH?

JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT IT, I CAN'T JUST...
I HAVE MONEY THAT I GOT FROM MOMMY!!
I CAN GO SHOPPING ON MY OWN, YOU KNOW!
My wallet!
UM, HARUTO, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE MOVING TODAY?
YEAH, I AM! I'M IN A REALLLY BIG HURRY RIGHT NOW, SO HOP TO IT!
SEE!!
...HARUTO, THIS IS THE BOOK THAT YOU AND KAZUSHI-...
RITSU-SAN
AND SOON I'LL BE ABLE TO RIDE THE TRAIN BY MYSELF TOO!

stare
LET ME?
LISTEN UP.
.....
YOU CAN PROBABLY TAKE THE TRAIN BY YOURSELF TOO
WHEN YOU CAN PUT THIS TOGETHER BY YOURSELF,
dash
'K, I'M LEAVING THEN!
OF COURSE!
IS THAT SO?
THAT'S EASY AS PIE!


HARUTO
Right.
See ya again!
……ngh
SEE YA AGAIN
UM, RITSU-SAN

I CAN'T RELAX IF YOU KEEP STARING AT ME LIKE THAT...
WHAT IS THIS?
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT EVEN YOU CAN LOOK ADULT WHEN YOU'RE TALKING TO HARUTO.
HUH? OH... ACK!
Sorry.
FOR SOME REASON ...
WHAT THE...?
IT'S NOT MEANT TO BE A COMPLI-MENT
I'M THE ONE WHO CAN'T SEEM TO RELAX.
OH,
ARE YOU LEAVING NOW?
STAFF ROOM

RITSU-SAN, I THINK...
.....
I'VE FOUND A BIT OF MOTIVATION NOW
.....
HAVE YOU NOW?
WHY...

"WHY?"
HUH?
DO YOU HAVE TO LOOK SO HAPPY?
WHEN YOU DO THAT...
I CAN'T HELP BUT GET MY HOPES UP.
HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED...
WHY I DID THOSE THINGS?
HEY,
RITSU-SAN
LIKE WHY...
I WANTED TO KISS YOU.

THE REASON...?
BUT WHEN YOU ASK ME THAT QUESTION WITH A GAZE LIKE THAT...
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE REASON FOR IT?
I FEEL LIKE YOU'LL DISCOVER THAT I WAS DESPERATELY TRYING TO FORGET EVERYTHING...
AND I CAN'T FIND THE VOICE TO SAY ANYTHING.
HUH?
SHIGA-KUN?

YESTERDAY.
HE QUIT
WHAT?
HUH? WHY DIDN'T YOU HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT IT, IZAKI-SAN?
I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD HAVE HEARD IT DIRECTLY FROM SHIGA-KUN...
Unreal
.....
I SAW HIM WALKING WITH A GIRL IN FRONT OF THE STATION. SHE LOOKED OLDER THAN HIM THOUGH...
HE PROBABLY GOT A GIRL-FRIEND OR SOMETHING.
YOU KNOW HOW HE'S BEEN BUSY WITH SCHOOL.
HAVING A JOB WAS PROBABLY TOO MUCH FOR HIM.

HAVE YOU SEEN HER TOO, IZAKI-SAN?
OH?
BUT THEY DON'T LOOK ALIKE AT ALL
Oh!
I'VE SEEN THEM TOGETHER TOO! I THOUGHT SHE WAS HIS SISTER AT FIRST.
DIDN'T
HE SAY IT? HE DID, DIDN'T HE!?
annoyed
THAT HE'S FOUND SOME MOTIVA-TION!!!
BUT...
.....

NOW HE'S QUIT...
AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, THAT OTHER DAY...
I'LL TELL YOU BECAUSE RIGHT NOW IN YOUR HEAD
YOU'RE PROBABLY DESPERATELY TRYING TO DENY IT ALL
BUT...
IT'S BECAUSE I LIKE YOU.
THE REASON ?
&
THAT'S WHY I DID THAT WHEN YOU WERE OVER...

I WASN'T HALF-ASLEEP AT THE TIME,
SORRY,
AND I DON'T PLAN TO PLAY IT OFF EITHER.
BUT IF I DON'T SAY IT STRAIGHT OUT, YOU WOULD PROBABLY NEVER NOTICE
I WASN'T TRYING TO...
BEEN STRUGGLING OVER THIS, YOU KNOW...
DON'T MAKE IT SOUND LIKE I'M DENSE
BUT DESPITE EVERY-THING, I'VE REALLY...
YOU'RE PLENTY DENSE...
HE TOLD ME THAT HE LIKES ME...

BUT IF HE LEAVES LIKE THIS, IT DOESN'T CLEAR UP ANYTHING BETWEEN US!
TRAMP
BUT HE HAS A GIRL THAT HE'S SEEING
TRAMP
LIKES?
THEN HOW DO I...
KAZUSHI LIKES ME?
IT'S BECAUSE I LIKE YOU
ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT HARUTO-KUN?
HUH?
FEEL ABOUT HIM...?

I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO HARUTO-KUN COMING HERE
WHEN I SEE THIS BOOK, IT MAKES ME THINK OF HIM.
THESE PAST FEW DAYS...
I'VE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT HARUTO
I LOVE IT TOO IT'S SO NICE AND COLORFUL
YEAH, THERE'S THAT.
OH...
HOPEFULLY, SOMEDAY HE'LL COME AGAIN!
YEAH...
TURN

Welcome!
slide
TUMBLE
!?
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
BUMP
.....
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MA'AM!?
YES
I'M SOR—
OH?
HAVE I SEEN YOU BEFORE—?
?!

...GIRL-FRIEND?!
HUH?!
IT'S SHIGA-KUN'S...
AH!
SHH!!
You're too loud!
ARE YOU HURT ANYWHERE? WE'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.
N-...
I ONLY
WORK FOR SHIGA-KUN...!
NO, WAIT... I'M NOT!
...WORK?
UMM, NOTHING OF THE SUSPICIOUS SORT, REALLY...!!
HERE'S...
MY CARD...
tremble
silence
...

WHAT ?!!!
NO WAY!
Y-YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
UH-...
UM...
GET OUT!! IT CAN'T BE FOR REAL!! I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE IT!!
I REALLY LIKED...
AND LATELY HE WAS WORKING SO MUCH THAT HE WASN'T SLEEPING
THIS BOOK HERE
WAS HE THE ONE WHO MADE IT?
WAS IT FOR THIS?

THAT'S RIGHT!!
THIS TIME AROUND HE SUDDENLY WANTED TO CHANGE THE CONCEPT.
WE WERE ALREADY PRESSED FOR TIME TO BEGIN WITH...
BUT IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD EVER SEEN HIM SO INTO HIS WORK
I probably shouldn't say this
SO I GAVE HIM THE OK TO DO IT.
DIDN'T I DECIDE TO FORGET EVERY-THING THAT HAD HAPPENED?
DID YOU...
ENJOY IT?
DASH
WHAT'S THE POINT OF EVEN GOING THERE?
BUT...
WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH ME?

Grab
AND ASK YOU SO MANY THINGS.
HEY!
WERE YOU THE ONE WHO MADE THIS?!
CLICK
I WANT TO SEE YOU SO MUCH.
I WANT TO SEE YOU...
HUH?
3-D
WHAT?

BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO GET IT TOGETHER RIGHT
crumple
crumple
I WANT TO MAKE A BOOK FOR KINDER-GARTEN STUDENTS,
3-D MODELING AND STUFF, RIGHT?
AREN'T YOU STUDYING TECHNICAL DESIGN, KAZUSHI?
SISTER
ANYWAY, THE BOOK FOLLOWS THE STORY AND TURNS INTO SOMETHING THREE-DIMENSIONAL!
I GUESS? WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
Something looks cool
Hmm
SOME KIND OF SIMPLE STORY AND IT TAKES SHAPE SOMEHOW?
ERR, BUT WHAT IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE?
THEN AFTER-WARDS
IT'S INCRED-IBLE!!!
WOW! THIS IS GREAT!!!
ERR THANKS
WHAT!?
BUT IT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED!!

SO THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T LIKE IT IN THE CHILDREN'S BOOKS SECTION...
AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!
THEN BEFORE I KNEW IT, THE BOOK I'D MADE HAD BECOME A HUGE HIT. I KEPT GETTING NAGGED TO MAKE MORE AND MORE, SO I HAD ENOUGH AND MOVED OUT.
FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON IT WAS REALLY POPULAR WITH THE KIDS, AND TALK OF IT SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE AMONGST THE MOTHERS.
Although thanks to it I had enough money to live out on my own.
Uhhh
.....
HMMPH
AND BESIDES, YOU WERE IGNORING ME
I WASN'T IGNORING YOU.
ALL I GOT IN THE END WAS A SLAP IN THE FACE
BUT EVEN THOUGH I HAD FOUND SOME MOTIVATION,
I COULDN'T KEEP UP THE TWO JOBS IN THE END.

I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN A KISS IN BEFOREHAND AT LEAST...
WHAT?!
I TOOK IT BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE...
BUT THAT'S STILL NO REASON TO QUIT!
AND IF YOU HAD MONEY, YOU DIDN'T NEED TO FORCE YOURSELF TO TAKE THE JOB IN THE FIRST PLACE
DON'T YOU KNOW?
SO
WHY DID YOU COME HERE, RITSU-SAN?

HONESTLY SPEAKING, THIS TIME I WAS WORKING SO HARD ONLY CUZ I WAS IN THE MOOD TO.
sigh
LISTEN...
I THOUGHT THAT IF I COULD GET A HAPPY REACTION LIKE THAT OVER A BOOK, THEN IT MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD AFTER ALL.
UMM, I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU HAD QUIT AND ALSO SOME OTHER THINGS...
WHY?
OH!
HARLITO SURE LOVED IT, DIDN'T HE?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
THAT YOU ENJOY THEM.
IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO ME...

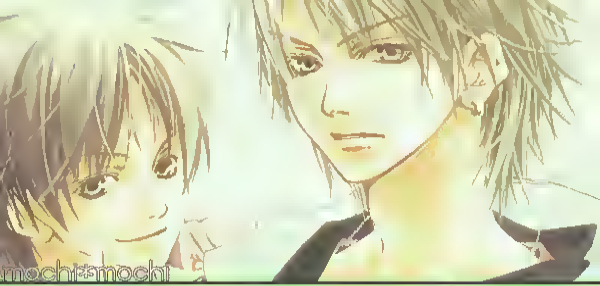
NOT TO FLUSTER ME LIKE THAT!
AND I'M TELLING YOU!
RITSU-SAN...
Fluster?
.....
I KNOW THAT.
YOU WOULDN'T COME TO A GUY'S PLACE AFTER HE'S CONFESSED HIS FEELINGS FOR YOU...
DO YOU NOT LIKE IT WHEN I SAY THINGS LIKE THAT?
AND I'VE QUIT MY JOB THERE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO A THING TO AVOID ME.
I DON'T EXACTLY HATE IT...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO KNOW HIS REASONS FOR DISAP-PEARING.
AND THAT TOO.
I THOUGHT THAT I COULD LEAVE THINGS UNSETTLED LIKE THIS.
NORMALLY

BUT
HEY
I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING YET!!
YEAH BUT I PRETTY MUCH KNOW ALREADY
HUH!? KNOW WHAT?

FINE, WHY DON'T YOU RUN THEN? LIKE LAST TIME
<SFX: KICK>
NGH
gh
Nn
FIRST YOU SLAP ME, THEN YOU KICK ME?
DON'T GET TOO AHEAD OF YOURSELF!!
OWWW
ONE MORE THING
huff
huff

The future of a new children's book author looks bright and promising, both in love and career ♡

Chara Selection END



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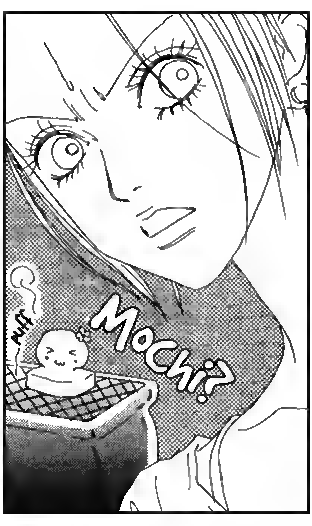
Kikagaku Ehon

Asaka Takaboshi

Chara Selection 1/05

Thank you!
One Million Hits
mochi mochi

http://mochithirsty.net ~~~~~~~~ w/2006 ~~~~~~~~ #kodacha@irchighway.net



mochi*mochi *presents*

Kikagaku Ehon

Geometric Picture Book

By: Asako Takaboshi

****

Mochi is basically a sticky rice cake made from pounded glutinous rice. While there are special mochi dishes prepared just for Japanese holidays it's eaten all year round too and quite delicious.

Err, mochi doesn't usually have Hachiko's face on it when you cook blocks of pre-packaged mochi from the store, but it's cute isn't it? It's rather hard at first, but becomes soft and sticky when cooked. Try some mochi sometime!

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Mochi-Mochi
presents

Kikagaku Ehon

Asako Takaboshi

Kagami-mochi (as seen on Akihito's head) is a New Years decoration arrangement comprised of two flattened round pieces of mochi stacked on top of each other and topped off with a daidai orange. It is later taken down on January 11th where the mochi can be broken into pieces and eaten. Word of warning: do not copy Akihito and do this at your local Japanese bar! Special thanks to Arshey for providing us with this image!

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